

TUESDAY SKI

Bear & I went
cross-country skiing
early afternoon.
Six inches of
fluffy virgin snow
& no one around.
Just a silent white
meadow, snow-mantled
pine trees at meadow
edge & slate gray,
snow-patched peaks
50 miles east.
Paradise to someone
retired, healthy
& accompanied by
a favorite dog.

THUNDER

Bear's a muscle dog.
Part wolf, he has
strong jaws & a
strong heart. He's
not afraid of dogs
or men. But he
has a weakness.
When he hears
thunder, he shudders
& whines & turns
to me for help.
I put him in my
pickup, his favorite
retreat, where he
pulls himself together
& toughs it out.